

LEA

2. To conduct as a commander.
Cyrus was beaten and slain under the *leading* of a woman, whose wit and conduct made a great figure in ancient story. *Temple.*
3. To shew the way, by going first.
He left his mother a countess by patent, which was a new *leading* example, grown before somewhat rare, since the days of queen Mary. *Watson.*
The way of maturing of tobacco must be from the heat of the earth or sun; we see some *leading* of this in muskmelons sown upon a hot-bed dunned below. *Bacon.*
The vessels heavy-laden put to sea.
With prosperous gales, and woman *leads* the way. *Dryden.*
LEAD. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Guidance; first place: a low despicable word.
Yorkshire takes the *lead* of the other countries. *Herring.*
LEADEN. *adj.* [leaden, Saxon.]
1. Made of lead.
This tiger-footed rage, when it shall find
The harm of unskann'd swiftness, will, too late,
Tye *leaden* pounds to 's heels. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
O murtherous slumber!
Lay'st thou the *leaden* mace upon my boy,
That plays thee music. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
A *leaden* bullet shot from one of these guns against a stone wall, the space of twenty-four paces from it, will be beaten into a thin plate. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*
2. Heavy; unwilling; motionless.
If thou do'st find him tractable to us,
Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons:
If he be *leaden*, icy, cold, unwilling,
Be thou so too. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*
3. Heavy; dull.
I'll strive with troubled thoughts to take a nap;
Left *leaden* slumber poize me down to-morrow;
When I should mount with wings of victory. *Shakespeare.*
LEADER. *n. f.* [from *lead*.]
1. One that leads, or conducts.
2. Captain; commander.
In my tent
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,
Limit each *leader* to his several charge,
And part in just proportion our small strength. *Shakespeare.*
I have given him for a *leader* and commander to the people. *Id. iv. 4.*
Those who escaped by flight excused their dishonour, not without a sharp jest against some of their *leaders*, affirming, that, as they had followed them into the field, so it was good reason they should follow them out. *Howard.*
When our Lycians see
Our brave examples, they admiring say,
Behold our gallant *leaders*. *Denham.*
The brave *leader* of the Lycian crew. *Dryden.*
One who goes first.
Nay keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a follower now you are a *leader*. *Shakespeare.*
4. One at the head of any party or faction: as the detestable Wharton was the *leader* of the whigs.
The understandings of a senate are enlaved by three or four *leaders*, set to get or to keep employments. *Swift.*
LEADING. *participial adj.* Principal.
In organized bodies, which are propagated by seed, the shape is the *leading* quality, and most characteristic part, that determines the species. *Locke.*
Mistakes arise from the influence of private persons upon great numbers stiled *leading* men and parties. *Swift.*
LEADING-STRINGS. *n. f.* [lead and string.] Strings by which children, when they learn to walk, are held from falling.
Sound may serve such, ere they to fence are grown,
Like *leading-strings*, 'till they can walk alone. *Dryden.*
Was he ever able to walk without *leading-strings*, or swim without bladders, without being discovered by his hobbling and his sinking? *Swift.*
LEADMAN. *n. f.* [lead and man.] One who begins or leads a dance.
Such a light and mett'd dance
Saw you never,
And by *leadmen* for the nonce,
That turn round like grindle stones. *Benj. Johnson.*
LEAF. *n. f.* [lead and wort.]
This flower consists of one leaf, which is shaped like a funnel, and cut into several segments at the top, out of whose fistulous flower-cup rises the point, which afterward becomes one oblong seed, for the most part sharp-pointed, which ripens in the flower-cup. *Miller.*
LEAF. *n. f.* leaves, plural. [leaf, Saxon; leaf, Dutch.]
1. The green deciduous parts of plants and flowers.
This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth
The tender *leaves* of hopes, to-morrow blossoms. *Shakespeare.*
A man shall seldom fail of having cherries borne by his graft the same year in which his incision is made, if his graft have blossom buds; whereas if it were only *leaf* buds, it will not bear fruit till the second season. *Bay.*

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- Those things which are removed to a distant view, ought to make but one *leaf*; as the *leaves* on the trees, and the billows in the sea. *Dryden's Darius.*
2. A part of a book, containing two pages.
Happy ye *leaves*, when as those lily hands
Shall handle you. *Spenser.*
Peruse my *leaves* through every part,
And think thou feel'st my owner's heart
Scrawl'd o'er with trifles. *Swift.*
3. One side of a double door.
The two *leaves* of the one door were folding. *Keats.*
4. Any thing foliated, or thinly beaten.
Eleven ounces two pence sterling ought to be of so pure silver, as is called *leaf* silver, and then the milder must add of other weight seventeen pence halfpenny farthing. *Camden.*
Leaf gold, that flies in the air as light as down, is as truly gold as that in an ingot. *Digby on Bism.*
To LEAF. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To bring leaves; to bear leaves.
Most trees sprout, and fall off the *leaves* at autumn; and if not kept back by cold, would *leaf* about the foliage. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.*
LEAFLESS. *adj.* [from *leaf*.] Naked of leaves.
Bare homely without some other adornment, being looked on as a *leafless* tree, nobody will take himself to its shelter. *Government of the Tongue.*
Where doves in flocks the *leafless* trees o'er shade. *Pope.*
LEAFY. *adj.* [from *leaf*.] Full of leaves.
The flocks of men were ever so,
Since summer was first *leafy*. *Shakespeare.*
What chance, good lady, hath bereft you thus?
—Dim darkness, and this *leafy* labyrinth. *Milton.*
O'er barren mountains, o'er the flow'ry plain,
The *leafy* forest, and the liquid main,
Extends thy uncontroul'd and boundless reign. *Dryden.*
Her *leafy* arms with such extent were spread,
That hosts of birds, that wing the liquid air,
Perch'd in the boughs. *Dryden's Flower and Leaf.*
So when some sweet-travelling travellers retire
To *leafy* shades, near the cool sunless verge
Of Paraba, Brazilian stream; her tail
A grisly hydra suddenly shoots forth. *Philips.*
LEAGUE. *n. f.* [league, French; *ligo*, Latin.]
1. A confederacy; a combination.
You peers, continue this united *league*:
I every day expect an embassy
From my Redeemer, to redeem me hence.
And now in peace my soul shall part to heav'n,
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth. *Shakespeare.*
We come to be informed by yourselves,
What the conditions of that *league* must be. *Shakespeare.*
Thou shalt be in *league* with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. *Job v. 23.*
Go break thy *league* with Baalham, that he may depart from me. *2 Chron. xvi. 3.*
It is a great error, and a narrowness of mind, to think, that nations have nothing to do one with another, except there be either an union in sovereignty, or a conjunction in pacis or *leagues*: there are other bands of society and implicit confederations. *Bacon's Holy War.*
1. a private person, whom my country
As a *league* breaker gave up bound, presum'd
Single rebellion, and did hostile acts. *Milton's Agonistes.*
Oh Tyrants, with immortal hate
Pursue this race: let there be
'Twixt us and them no *league* nor amity. *Denham.*
To LEAGUE. *v. n.* To unite; to confederate.
Where fraud and falsehood invade society, the band presently breaks, and men are put to a loss where to *league* and to fasten their dependences. *South's Sermons.*
LEAGUE. *n. f.* [league, French.]
1. A league; *leuca*, Latin; from *leco*, Welsh; a stone that was used to be erected at the end of every league. *Camden.*
2. A measure of length, containing three miles.
Ere the ships could meet by twice five *leagues*,
We were encount'ed by a mighty rock. *Shakespeare.*
Ev'n Italy, though many a *league* remote,
In distant echo's answer'd. *Addison.*
LEAGUED. *adj.* [from *league*.] Confederated.
And now thus *leagu'd* by an eternal bond,
What shall retard the Britons bold designs. *Philips.*
LEAGUER. *n. f.* [belegeren, Dutch.] Siege, investment of a town.
We will bind and hoodwink him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the *leaguer* of the adversaries, when we bring him to our own tents. *Shakespeare.*
LEAK. *n. f.* [leak, *leke*, Dutch.] A breach or hole which lets in water.
There will be always evils, which no art of man can cure; breaches and *leaks* more than man's wit hath hands to stop. *Hodder.*

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- The water rushes in, as it doth usually in the *leak* of a ship. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*
Whether she sprung a *leak* I cannot find,
Or whether she was over set with wind,
Or that some rock below her bottom rent,
But down at once with all her crew she went. *Dryden.*
To LEAK. *v. n.*
1. To let water in or out.
They will allow us ne'er a jordan, and then we *leak* in your chimney. *Shakespeare.*
The water, which will perhaps by degrees *leak* into several parts, may be emptied out again. *Wilkins's Math. Magick.*
His feet should be washed every day in cold water; and have his shoes so thin, that they might *leak*, and let in water. *Locke.*
2. To drop through a breach.
Golden stars hung o'er their heads,
And seem'd so crowded, that they burst upon 'em,
And dart at once their baleful influence
In *leaking* fire. *Dryden's and Lee's Oedipus.*
LEAKAGE. *n. f.* [from *leak*.] Allowance made for accidental loss in liquid measures.
LEAKY. *adj.* [from *leak*.]
1. Battered or pierced, so as to let water in or out.
Thou'rt so *leaky*,
That we must leave thee to thy sinking; for
Thy dearest quit thee. *Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.*
If you have not enjoy'd what youth could give,
But life sunk through you like a *leaky* sieve,
Accuse yourself, you liv'd not while you might. *Dryden.*
2. Loquacious; not close.
Women are so *leaky*, that I have hardly met with one that could not hold her breath longer than she could keep a secret. *L'Estrange.*
To LEAN. *v. n.* *peter. leamed or leant.* [planan, Saxon; *lenen*, Dutch.]
1. To incline against; to rest against.
Lean thine aged back against mine arm,
And in that case I'll tell thee my disease. *Shakespeare.*
Security is expressed among the medals of Gordianus, by a lady *leaning* against a pillar, a scepter in her hand, before an altar. *Peacham on Drawing.*
The columns may be allowed somewhat above their ordinary length, because they *lean* unto so good supporters. *Watts.*
Upon his iv'ry sceptre first he *leant*,
Then shook his head, that shook the firmament. *Dryden.*
Oppress'd with anguish, panting and o'erpent,
His fainting limbs against an oak he *leant*. *Dryden's En.*
If he be angry, all our other dependencies will profit us nothing; every other support will fail under us when we come to *lean* upon it, and deceive us in the day when we want it most. *Rogers's Sermons.*
Then *leaning* o'er the rails he musing stood,
Mid the central depth of black'ning woods,
High rais'd in solemn theatre around
Leans the huge elephant. *Thomson's Summer.*
2. To propend; to tend towards.
They delight rather to *lean* to their old customs, though they be more unjust, and more inconvenient. *Spenser.*
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and *lean* not unto thine own understanding. *Prov. iii. 5.*
A desire *leaning* to either side, biases the judgment strangely. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
3. To be in a bending posture.
She *leans* me out at her mistress's chamber window, bids me a thousand times good night. *Shakespeare.*
Wearied with length of ways, and worn with toil,
She laid her down; and *leaning* on her knees,
Invok'd the cause of all her miseries. *Dryden.*
The gods came downward to behold the wars,
Sharpening their sights, and *leaning* from their stars. *Dryden.*
LEAN. *adj.* [plane, Saxon.]
1. Not fat; meagre; wanting flesh; bare-boned.
You tempt the fury of my three attendants,
Lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing fire. *Shakespeare.*
Lean raw-bon'd rascals! who would e'er suppose,
They had such courage and audacity! *Shakespeare.*
Lean look'd prophets whisper fearful change. *Shakespeare.*
I would invent as bitter searching terms,
With tall as many signs of deadly hate,
As *lean-fac'd* envy in her loathsome cave. *Shakespeare.*
Seven other kine came up out of the river, ill-favoured and lean-fleshed. *Gen. xli. 3.*
Let a physician beware how he purge after hard froly weather, and in a *lean* body, without preparation. *Bacon.*
And fetch their precepts from the cynic tub,
Praising the *lean*, and fallow, abstinence. *Milton.*
Swear that Adrastus, and the *lean-look'd* prophet,
Are joint conspirators. *Dryden and Lee's Oedipus.*
Lean people often suffer for want of fat, as fat people may by obstruction of the vessels. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
No laughing graces warman in my eyes;
But haggard grief, *lean* looking fallow care, *1*

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- Dwell on my brow. *Rowe's Jane Shore.*
2. Not unctuous; thin; hungry.
There are two chief kinds of terrestrial liquors, those that are fat and light, and those that are *lean* and more earthy, like common water. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Low; poor; in opposition to great or rich.
That which combin'd us was most great, and let not
A *leaner* action rend us. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*
LEAN. *n. f.* That part of flesh which consists of the muscle without the fat.
With razors keen we cut our passage clean
Through rills of fat, and deluges of *lean*. *Farguher.*
LEANLY. *adv.* [from *lean*.] Meagerly; without plumpness.
LEANNESS. *n. f.* [from *lean*.]
1. Extenuation of body; want of flesh; meagreness.
If thy *leanness* loves such food,
There are those, that, for thy sake,
Do enough. *Benj. Johnson's Forest.*
The symptoms of too great fluidity are excess of universal secretions, as of perspiration, sweat, urine, liquid dejections, *leanness*, and weakinds. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
2. Want of bulk.
The poor king Reignier, whose large style
Agrees not with the *leanness* of his purse. *Shakespeare.*
To LEAP. *v. n.* [leapan, Saxon; *leap*, Scottish.]
1. To jump; to move upward or progressively without change of the feet.
If I could win a lady at leap-frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on, I should quickly *leap* into a wife. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
A man *leapeth* better with weights in his hands than without; for that the weight, if it be proportionable, strengtheneth the sinews by contracting them. In *leaping* with weights the arms are first cast backwards and then forwards with so much the greater force; for the hands go backward before they take their rise. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
In a narrow pit
He saw a lion, and *leap'd* down to it. *Cowley's Davideis.*
Thrice from the ground she *leap'd*, was seen to wield
Her brandish'd lance. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. To rush with vehemence.
God changed the spirit of the king into mildness, who in a fear *leaped* from his throne, and took her in his arms, till she came to herself again. *Ezra. xv. 8.*
After he went into the tent, and found her not, he *leaped* out to the people. *Judith xiv. 17.*
He ruin upon ruin heaps,
And on me, like a furious giant, *leaps*. *Sandys.*
Strait *leaping* from his horse he rais'd me up. *Rowe.*
3. To bound; to spring.
Rejoice ye in that day, and *leap* for joy. *Luke vi. 23.*
I am warm'd, my heart
Leaps at the trumpet's voice, and burns for glory. *Addison.*
4. To fly; to start.
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin
Leap'd from his eyes: so looks the chafed lion
Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him;
Then makes him nothing. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire *leap* out. *Job xli. 19.*
To LEAP. *v. a.*
1. To pass over, or into, by leaping.
Every man is not of a constitution to *leap* a gulf for the saving of his country. *L'Estrange.*
As one condemn'd to *leap* a precipice,
Who sees before his eyes the depth below,
Stops short. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*
She dares pursue, if they dare *lead*:
As their example still prevails,
She tempts the stream, or *leaps* the pales. *Prior.*
2. To compreß; as beasts.
Too soon they must not feel the sting of love:
Let him not *leap* the cow. *Dryden's Georg.*
LEAP. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Bound; jump; act of leaping.
2. Space pass'd by leaping.
After they have carried their riders safe over all *leaps*, and through all dangers, what comes of them in the end but to be broken-winded. *L'Estrange.*
3. Sudden transition.
Wickedness comes on by degrees, as well as virtue; and sudden *leaps* from one extreme to another are unnatural. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
The commons wrestled even the power of chuling a king intirely out of the hands of the nobles; which was to great a *leap*, and caus'd such a convulsion in the state, that the constitution could not bear. *Swift.*
4. An assault of an animal of prey.
The cat made a *leap* at the mouse. *L'Estrange.*
5. Embrace of animals.
How the cheats her bellowing lovers eye;
The rushing *leap*, the doubtful progeny. *Dryden's Æn.*
O Hazard,